

as we discuss that then, and the parties that I have been discussing this with, we talked about the fact that we could do a study, and we can have the same study we've always done and come back with the same kind of recommendations that, you know, may say so many students per...400 students or 600 students or 50 miles or 15. But, really, we have never done a study that really looks at how we may have our communities and schools cooperate and what that may mean. And I've said, you know, part of that maybe could even be a case study. If we look at Senator Schrock's district, where last year, with LB 840, we removed those disincentives for Southern Valley. We now have a school building where we have three communities, Beaver City, Orleans, and Oxford, and I went to the dedication of the new building, and as I looked out, those people passed a large bond issue. And as I looked out in the audience, there were a lot of senior citizens who had voted for a very expensive bond issue. And as you think about that and talked with the people, they were very excited that they were now going to have an auditorium in their school that was going to serve those three communities, and they were going to be able to get things, like from the Humanities Council, and different performances that would be able to come to that community. So then if we look at the vision about how we get young people back to many of our rural areas, certainly one thing I think they consider are our schools. So how can those schools look? How can they look in cooperation with communities? And if we are going to do a study, I think that's the thing we need to look at, what should they look like? And it doesn't...you know, does consolidation, does that cooperation really do a tax savings? Sometimes it may not. Certainly, when I cite lots of times Stull Elementary, where the head teacher teaches, is the administrator, where they have a wonderful little school. They don't have a hot lunch program. They have a microwave. I mean it is a different way of doing things, but there's certainly quality education. I think we want to make sure that we do not force schools that need to be there in those areas, that are in isolated areas, or rural areas, that would require great amounts of transportation, to force them into these types of studies or the emotional reaction to us mandating to them or commanding, as Senator Wickersham said, that they must consider this, rather than giving them an opportunity to envision what could happen in certain areas of our state if we looked at cooperation among communities and schools, and if schools, once again, become the center of the community, and what we need to do in order to have that happen. I think that's